



Todd K. Apo
Councilmember



▲ ----- Ewa-Ewa Beach-Honouliuli-West Loch -----
Kapolei-Kalaeloa-Honokai Hale / Nanakai Gardens-Ko Olina
Nanakuli-Wai'anae-Makaha-Keaau-Makua

MONTHLY REPORT

May 2005

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Councilmember's Message

Budget efforts continue to be the focus of the Council. Our priorities for Capital Improvement Budget items include moneys for (i) the necessary repairs to the Waianae Community Center, including much needed roof repairs, (ii) further improvements to Geiger Park, in accordance with the park's master plan, and (iii) funding for the completion of the Kamokila Extension, which would connect Kamokila Blvd near Home Depot to Roosevelt Road in Kalaeloa.

I want to thank all of you who sent in emails and other written testimony for the April 21 Council Meeting on all of the Budget items. It made it much easier to fight for these district projects with your testimonies before the other council members. We will be holding a Budget Caucus meeting at Kapolei Hale this month, and again encourage you to participate by attending or sending in written testimony. Emails are perfectly acceptable, and should be sent to gkim@honolulu.gov and ksuehiro@honolulu.gov.

Having survived the first four months at Council, my staff and I look forward to continuing to serve you here at Honolulu Hale. As I hope you are aware, we also regularly staff our office at Kapolei Hale – keeping our presence both in the district and in downtown Honolulu. We are the only Council office that has been able to secure a in district office to serve our constituents.

RAIL RAIL RAIL! With the expected passage by the Legislature of HB1309, granting the counties the power to add up to a half of a percent to the general excise tax, we will begin the discussion of mass transit solutions. I think we all agree that we have transportation issues that need to be fixed. I know, however, that there are different opinions on how we should fix them and how we should fund these solutions. I look forward to being a part of these discussions and realize that the ultimate vote on this matter must be made by me. I appreciate the input and thoughts I have already received and welcome your opinions on the subject.

YOUR DISTRICT 1 STAFF AT YOUR SERVICE

Todd K. Apo, Councilmember

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<div>Eyes on Ewa <i>by Wendy Sefo</i></div>
<p>We’ve got a serious dumping problem! We need everyone’s help to play a part in preventing further illegal dumping. Councilmember Apo recently received calls regarding the condition of the canal, which stretches from behind Ewalani Village at North Road, across Fort Weaver Road and down along Aekai Place to the ocean.</p> <p>The canal is the Ewa Beach Drain Outlet and is under City jurisdiction. Because of US Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Health restrictions, the City is only allowed to remove this sand plug on a monthly basis, which will occur during the first week of May, pending availability of heavy equipment. Opening the sand plug to restore the canal’s flow to the ocean helps to drain out this area. However, between these openings, stagnant conditions arise and the water in the ditch becomes littered and smelly. State Dept of Health, Dept of Land & Natural Resources and the Army do not allow removal of the sand from the area more frequently and the mouth of the ditch naturally closes after a few days. Despite the City’s efforts to remove the trash and educate the public, the canal continues to be filled with trash and debris from illegal dumpings. This is not an isolated issue as many of the small stream and ditch openings to the ocean adjacent to sand beaches have similar problems - not only in Hawaii but worldwide.</p> <p>The City Road maintenance crew recently inspected the area and discovered substantial debris (filled trash bags, trash etc.) within the canal. Apparently there is illegal dumping in the canal, and it appears the trash bags/debris may be coming from nearby residential areas.</p> <p>It was also noted that the easement along the canal wall upstream of Fort Weaver was overgrown and some homeless individuals had established themselves, making a sort of camp there. The crews began cleaning the debris from the ditch and cut back the overgrowth. The homeless were informed that the City was going to be working in the area and they have since moved out. The road crew also discovered an apparent illegal discharge of wash water from one of the apartment washing machines, and the violation has been referred to the City’s Department of Environmental Services for enforcement.</p> <p>One of the key ways to approach this continuing problem is prevention, through education. Enforcement of litter laws, by itself, is tough due to a lack of witnesses and the ability to clearly determine the source of the debris/trash. Councilmember Apo has initiated a request to the City’s Department of Environmental Services to collaborate on an education effort that will initially target the residents in Ewalani Village, Ewa Beach Town Houses and Ewa Colony Estates. Once completed, a broader community wide effort will be undertaken.</p> <p>If you are interested in helping to canvass the area homes along the canal, please contact your legislative aide, Wendy at (808) 692-5509.</p>

<div>Working within Waianae <i>by Karen Awana</i></div>
<p>On April 14, Councilmember Apo met with the Makaha Ahupuaa group. Mark Suiso, President of the Makaha Ahapuaa, and area residents shared their concerns and heard about some of the City plans for the area. The Emergency Access Road – Kaulawaha Extension, crime in the Moua/Upena/Makau streets, and capital improvements projects were discussed. The Makaha Ahapuaa meets on the second Thursday of every month, 6:30 pm at the Makaha Marketplace (Old Coronet) at the corner of Farrington Highway and Makaha Valley Road. For more information, contact Mark at 695-9317.</p> <p>Department of Transportation Director, Ed Hirata and his staff updated Councilmember Apo on the on-going Luualalei Road improvements. The Leihoku extension will be completed by June. The Luualalei Homestead Road realignment is in progress – completion date is scheduled for the end of 2005. We are also in discussion with the City and State transportation departments to seek solutions to the morning traffic along Farrington Highway between Maili and Nanakuli.</p> <p>Options are continuing to be looked at for the drainage and flooding problems along Paakea Road. Our office will be meeting with Representative Ed Case’s office to discuss possible joint efforts between the City and Federal governments to help this problem.</p> <p>The Hokulea is scheduled to visit the Waianae Coast. The Waianae Hawaiian Civic Club will host crewmembers on May 13 - 14 at Pokai Bay Beach Park. Contact Gigi Kawelo at 696-2932 for more information. The Nanakuli Community is scheduled to receive the Hokulea on May 20 – 22 at Zablan Beach Park. Nanakuli contact person is Alvin Parker at 620-9030.</p>
<div>Keeping Up In Kapolei <i>by Wendy Sefo</i></div>
<p>The plans for the Kapolei Skate Park are one step closer to becoming a reality. Councilmember Apo recently met with the folks from the City’s Department of Parks to discuss the status of the project.</p> <p>According to Parks, \$665,000 has been budgeted and the design and construction phases are moving forward on the 7,000 sq ft facility. The Skate Park is planned for the upper east end of Kapolei Regional Park and will be enclosed by a 4-foot fence around its perimeter.</p> <p>Councilmember Apo was also able to confirm the Department of Parks support for his CIP request for monies to complete the few yet unfinished projects at the regional park including the final touches to the hula mound, the comfort station to be located adjacent to the upper parking lot and monies for the additional lot to be located near the soon to be completed Kamaaha Street extension.</p> <p>(See rendering on back page.)</p>

<div>The Analyst’s Report: City’s Proposed Budget Package for fiscal year -2005-2006 <i>By Charmaine Doran</i></div>
<p>Currently underway at the City Council is the Budget Review Cycle. Up for Council consideration is the proposed Executive Operating & Capital Budgets, the Legislative Budget and the Revenue Program for the upcoming fiscal year. These proposals cover all of the city’s expenditures, capital projects as well as means of revenue generation for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Collectively, nine legislative items comprise this year’s budget package: Bill 11 - Legislative Budget; Bill 12 -Executive Operating Budget; Bill 13 - Capital Program Budget; Bill 17- Motor Vehicle Weight Bill 18 – Enterprise Services; Bill 19 – Sewer Fees; Bill 20 –Wastewater Facility Charge; Bill 26 – Low Income Tax Credit; and Resolution 05-75 relating to Real Property Taxation Rates.</p> <p>Legislative Budget – Bill 11 The purpose of Bill 11 is to appropriate \$12 million dollars for the Legislative Budget. The City Council, Office of the City Clerk, Elections Division, Office of Council Services and the City Auditor are all covered by this element of the City’s Budget.</p> <p>Operating Budget – Bill 12 Bill 12 contains the Operating Budget. Daily operations, salaries and the administration of City services, programs, activities and functions comprise most of Operating Budget. The proposed Operating Budget at 1.356 billion dollars is a 10% increase over the current fiscal budget of \$1.229 billion. According to the Mayor’s transmittal, this increase can be attributed to several factors including rising fixed operating costs, debt service and growing bus subsidies. The Operating Budget also includes appropriations to expand the Island-Wide Recycling program and Bulky Item Collections, a pilot program to extend the hours of operation at Satellite City Halls and financing to increase service levels at City Driver Examinations and Building Permit operations.</p> <p>Capital Budget – Bill 13 Almost 300 projects totaling approximately \$451 million dollars are identified in Bill13. This is a \$153 million dollar increase over the current \$298 million Capital Budget. A majority of this increase can be attributed to several proposed Sewer and Solid Waste projects totaling \$281 million dollars. Other projects included within Bill 13 are a new City Pothole Repair Program and various Fire and Police equipment purchases and station improvements. The Capital Budget also proposes for 2005-2006 eighteen different projects in Council District 1 that total approximately \$15 million dollars.</p> <p>Revenue Program – Bill’s 17, 18,19, 20, 26 & Resolution 05-75 Accompanying the Capital and Operating Budgets is the Mayor’s Revenue Program. In addition to borrowing and/or securing grants, the City may also make adjustments to several rate schedules, such as Real Property Taxes, Fuel Taxes and Sewer Fees, in order to raise monies. The Revenue Program identifies what means will be utilized to fund the proposed budgets. The Charter requires not only that the Mayor submit a balanced Operating and Executive Budget but also the financing mechanisms needed to pay for it. This year’s Revenue Program consists of several measures that aim to generate funds to pay for the City’s proposed budgets as well as two items that will help to alleviate the tax burden on local residents.</p> <p>Bill 17 outlines an increase in the Vehicle Weight Tax from two cent to three cent per pound.</p> <p>Bill 18 suggests increases in rental fees for the Blaisdell and Waikiki Shell.</p> <p>Bills 19 & 20 relate to Sewer fees and Wastewater Facility charges. Bill 19 projects a gradual annual increase of 25% for Sewer Fees beginning in 2005 and then 10% increases for subsequent years running through 2010. Bill 20 projects similar increases over the same time period for residential units.</p> <p>On the other hand is legislation aimed at shielding some property owners against skyrocketing Real Property Assessments. Bill 26 provides additional real property tax relief by way of a credit for “very low income” households. It lowers the threshold level by which taxes must exceed household income from five percent of household income to four percent. Resolution 05-75 lowers the Real Property Taxation Rate by approximately \$1.00 for Agriculturally designated properties.</p> <p>Since receiving these Budgets in early March, the City Council has held almost twenty hearings, briefings and meetings on these proposals. This included a hearing at Kapolei Hale in early April. Review of the budget is expected to continue throughout the month of May and into early June. The Council is required to be completed with their review and have an adopted Operating and Capital budget no later than June 15.</p> <p>Each of these meetings and hearings presents an opportunity for the public to participate and be apart of the City’s Budget process. Members of the public may attend meetings and are invited to deliver testimony in person, via email or by fax. City Council meetings are also televised as “Inside Honolulu Hale” on Oceanic Cable Channel 54.</p> <p>Councilmember Apo encourages interested District 1 residents to visit the City Council’s website to stay informed about Council actions and the budget review process. It is also possible to sign up to receive meeting and agendas notifications via email. The following links may be used to sign up for meeting notices or to review Council legislation including the proposed budgets:</p> <p>City Council Information: http://www.honolulu.gov/council/index1.htm City Council Documents: http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-193 Budget Information: http://www.honolulu.gov/budget/execbgt/index1.htm Revenue Program Legislation Links: (Bills) http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-217 (Reso) http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-264</p>